

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-12 and 14-45 are now pending in the application.

Claims 1-45 were examined. Claims 1, 2, 5-12 and 14-45 were rejected. Claims 3, 4 and 13 were objected to but indicated to be allowable. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowance.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 4-7, 9-11, 14-20, 22, 24-28, 31, 33, 36, 37, 39, 40, 42, 43 and 45 have been amended and claims 3 and 13 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 3 and is therefore allowable. As claims 2 and 4-10 are dependent upon or have a chain of dependency on claim 1, they too are allowable. Claim 11 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 13 and is therefore allowable. As claims 12 and 14-19 are dependent upon or have a chain of dependency on claim 11, they too are allowable. Claim 20 has been amended to include a limitation corresponding to the limitation of allowable claims 3 and 13 and is therefore allowable. As claims 21-36 are dependent upon or have a chain of dependency on claim 20, they too are allowable. Claim 24 has been amended to include a limitation corresponding to the limitation of allowable claims 3 and 13 and is therefore allowable. As claims 25-36 are dependent upon or have a chain of dependency on claim 24, they too are allowable. Claim 37 has been amended to include a limitation corresponding to the limitation of allowable claims 3 and 13 and is therefore allowable. As claims 38-45 are dependent upon or have a chain of dependency on claim 37, they too are allowable. The remainder of the claim amendments were made to change the format of the claims (i.e., by deleting lettering of the claim limitations), to change or correct dependency, to correct for typographical errors or to clarify the claimed invention.

Support for the amendments is found throughout the specification, drawings and the original claims. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims in view of the remarks made herein.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 2, 11, 12, 14, 20-28, 32, 33 and 37-45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Burrell, IV (U.S. Pat. No. 6,184,803) in view of Hoeksma (U.S. Pat. No. 6,271,835).

By the amendments made herein, claims 1, 2, 11, 12, 14, 20-28, 33 and 37-45 include the limitation of allowable claim 3 and 13. Accordingly, this rejection has been traversed.

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Claims 5-11, 15-19, 29-31 and 34-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Burrell, IV and Hoeksma as applied to claims 1, 11 and 24, above, and further in view of Will (U.S. Pat. No. 5,825,353).

By the amendments made herein, claims 5-11, 15-19, 29-31 and 34-36 include the limitation of allowable claim 3 and 13. Accordingly, this rejection has been traversed.

Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, this application is considered to be in good and proper form for allowance and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If the Examiner finds that a Telephone Conference would expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to contact the undersigned at (650) 833-7774.

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that extensions or other relief is required and/or fees are due applicants, the Applicant petitions for any required relief, including extensions of time, and authorize the Commissioner to charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0815, Order Number LIFE052, for any fees due in connection with the filing of this document. The Patent Office is not authorized to charge issue fees to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
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